

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00846 080527Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W
-----127146 080910Z /13
R 080450Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9476
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0846

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PORG, LA, UN (WFP)
SUBJECT: THE LAO RICE SHORTFALL

REF: STATE 195955

1. UNDP/VIENTIANE HAS PROVIDED US WITH UPDATED FIGURES ON LAO DROUGHT EMERGENCY AID. AS OF THE END OF JULY, 87,141 MT OF FOOD COMMODITIES FROM FOREIGN DONORS HAD BEEN RECEIVED OR PLEDGED, 4,000 MT OF WHICH IS U.S. RICE GIVEN THROUGH THE WFP. (WE WILL POUCH COPIES OF THE UNDP ACCOUNT.)

2. THE UNDP ACTING RESREP TELLS US THAT HIS OFFICE IS STILL USING THE OFFICIAL LAO GOVERNMENT FIGURE OF 112,500 MT AS THE TOTAL NATIONAL NEED UNTIL THE NEXT HARVEST IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1978. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THERE WAS STILL A SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 25,000 MT.

3. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE 87,141 MT RECORDED AS RECEIVED OR PLEDGED ONLY COUNTS COMMODITIES GIVEN TO COMBAT THE 1978 DROUGHT EMERGENCY. IT DOES NOT COUNT AID GIVEN TO "NORMAL PROJECTS" SUCH AS THE TWO FOOD FOR WORK IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE
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SOUTH (2446 AND 2447) AND THE ORPHANWGGE (2437) WHICH WILL BE RECEIVING 6,000 MT OF U.S. RICE.

4. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE TOTAL NATIONAL NEED OF 112,500 MT IS ONLY AN ESTIMATE. WE THINK THAT IT WAS ARRIVED AT SINCERELY. HOWEVER, ITS ACCURACY WAS ALWAYS AFFECTED BY THE POOR LAO DATA BASE

ON POPQSZTION, CONSUMPTION HABITS, PRIVATE TRADE
PATTERNS, AND SO FORTH.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FORMER WFP VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE'S
FEELING THAT THE LAO FOOD NEED HAD BEEN HBY AND IN VIEW
OF WFP/ROME'S PLEDGE TO PROVIDE MORE FOOD IF IT IS
NEEDED (ROME 14145). WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE AWAIT
FURTHER WORD FROM THE LAO AND FROM UNDP/VIENTIANE
BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE 25.000 MT
SHORTFALL STILL CARRIED ON UNDP/VIENTIANE'S BOOKS.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780885/aaaactlb.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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